

## **U.S.-Poland Program for Solidarity and Partnership**

The long and close friendship between the United States and Poland is founded on our shared values of liberty, democracy, and solidarity—values we are celebrating as we observe the 25th anniversary of Poland's profound political transformation and the 15th anniversary of its membership in the NATO Alliance. The recent developments beyond NATO's eastern border reconfirm the importance of Alliance solidarity embodied in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and the bilateral strategic partnership between our two nations.

Our security and defense cooperation is already close, but the United States and Poland intend to strengthen and deepen that cooperation to address the security challenges emerging today. On the policy level, our regular political and military consultations in the Strategic Dialogue, the Strategic Cooperation Consultative Group, and the High Level Defense Group have already enabled us to make substantial progress in implementing the 2008 Declaration on Strategic Cooperation. On the ground, our soldiers have served shoulder to shoulder together in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. We have established a U.S. Air Force Aviation Detachment at Łask, and will deploy Phase III of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) missile defense system in Poland in 2018. In response to events in Ukraine, we have increased the scale and pace of our joint training and exercises in Poland and other Central and Eastern European Allies. We seek to maintain the interoperability we have developed through joint participation in operations with bilateral engagements and through NATO's Connected Forces Initiative.

Building on this new level of activity and our mutual desire to strengthen the NATO Alliance's three core tasks of collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security, the United States and Poland are developing a Program of Solidarity and Partnership to enhance the security of the entire Alliance, and particularly that of Central and Eastern European Allies. Through this program, we will intensify our common efforts and initiatives across a broad spectrum of key strategic areas including those set out below.

- Poland and the United States are crafting a long-term joint force training and exercise plan that includes the **continued rotational presence of U.S. military units in Poland** and facilitates the participation of other Allied forces.
- **Regionalization of U.S.-Polish Aviation Cooperation** will become a cornerstone of our bilateral defense relationship. Through this partnership, we will expand training for regional partners, incorporating air defense and other units as appropriate.
- We will jointly **maximize the potential of Poland's F-16s** through training, exercises, and system upgrades to ensure state-of-the-art capabilities.
- **Cooperation between our Special Forces (SOF) will intensify**, with a robust schedule of bilateral and multilateral training exercises in Poland and elsewhere.

- We will heighten **cooperation on air and missile defense**, with particular regard to strategy and streamlined technology transfer, creating opportunities for partnership; joint training and exercises will ensure interoperability in national, U.S., and NATO contexts.
- To further the cooperation of our defense industries, we are consulting on a **Defense Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Agreement** and planning to conduct a bi-annual **high-level Defense Industry Forum**.
- We will work to build interoperability with Allies and partners by **developing regional military capabilities** that use resources more efficiently.
- We will jointly **improve the capacity, security, and compatibility of our classified military communications systems** and will continue to **grow our cyber defense, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities**, especially through technical exchanges and the sharing of best practices.
- Capitalizing on extensive U.S. experience, we will **intensify cooperation in the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) domain**, including familiarization and training activities.